they had to clear the land of stones before his lifetime, clear and cultivate one hundred acres of land. If the conditions all over this country had been the same we of to-day. In the West, last year, I rented a man 1.200 acres of land, he a grop from one thousand acres of it. There is no reason why, with modern mechanical appliances any man should not this level prairie. There it lies ready for

ing away. No such thing was ever seen before in the history of the world. Suppose the government of the United States should build and equip a plant for making steel as good as Carnegie's and should give it to any one who wanted it and tell him he could have it without cost. Carnegie could not stand that kind of competition. No one could. Well, that is just what the government has been doing with the farmer. It has been said to the people of the United States: Here are farms to be had for the taking-much easier to cultivate than the farming land of New England, or of Pennsylvania, or of Ohio. It has thrown open this land to free settlement until the farms of New England lie idle and you can find can be bought for the taxes. Land in the tural population of New England has been ernment has been guaranteeing by the distribution of free farming land the cheapest food, at the same time it has, by a protective tariff, guaranteed the highest prices this? The farmer has got the lowest price for his grain and has paid the highest price for his manufactured goods. The increase of wealth in the agricultural community has been far less proportionately than it has been in the manufacturing commun-

"But the farmer is reported to be prosperous," I suggested.

"He isn't prosperous in the country where I own land," said Mr. Bookwalter, "He hasn't paid off his debts. He has refunded them at 5 per cent. Good times have meant that to him. But he has paid off very little if any of them."

"What about the stories that he is buying jewelry and putting money in the

"If he is buying jewelry it is because some one is persuading him to go into debt for it. The agricultural machinery agent sits on the fence and persuades the farmer that he will be better off if he pays \$250 for a threshing machine, though the whole product of his farm may not be worth | miles. more than \$200 a year. The agent doesn't care so long as he can get the farmer's name to a note. And then we hear how prosperous the farmer is, because he is buying machinery for his farm.

"No, the farmer is getting it on both sides, and he has had to lead a pretty hard life to make a living. How many millionaires do you know, by the way, who have made their money farming? A newspaper published, last year, a list of 3,800 millionaires in the United States. They were all in the cities. There was not a farmer among them. Yet the farmer represents one-half the population of the United

"A Wall-street man told me, the other day, that he knew a farmer who had made a million dollars in Minnesota. We figured out the possibilities of his land. The highest return he could possibly have got from it in the ten years in which he made his million, planting it in wheat and allowing a full crop every year, was \$700,000. When he deducted the cost of raising his crop I don't believe he had a dollar left. In fact, he was probably in debt. If he made a million in those ten years, he made it in some-

of luck in the last thirteen years. Think of it. In all that time there has been only one poor crop. The others have all been, not crops or good crops, but bumper production we have to-day no surplus of corn or oats and very little wheat. Necessarily the result of a poor crop of grain will be a shortage. That is what we have in corn this year. One or two poor crops will

WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLY. "I am not a calamity howler, but four years ago, before Professor Crooks atprediction that the world was facing the possibilities of a famine, I wrote a letter in which I predicted that the world's capacity for producing food was not keeping pace with the world's increase in populathat it was a question of easily food would run short. That is going to be demonstrated in our own country before very long. Our population has been increasing very rapidly. It has been a boast ducing capacity has been increased but not in the same ratio. Now the land available for producing cheap food is about gone. What land is left for settlement in the West is largely land which must be irrigated to make it productive and that is crops, as I have said, are going to mean but that we shall not have enough for own use. High-priced food is going to be coincident with low-priced manufactured products and low wages. If that comes, it will mean prosperity to the farmer, but pretty hard times for the urban population. I have believed for many years that we were concentrating our population too much. If the state of affairs I have suggested should come about, it is going to create conditions such as have occurred in Europe more than once. The fight is on now in Germany, and we may see German agrarian troubles duplicated here.

"I was quoted not long ago as saying that there might be a conflict between the urban and the agricultural population in this country. I have not said anything like that or believed it. What I do believe is that there may be a bitter feeling between them due to the advance in the costs of food stuffs, Suppose a ship loaded with food from abroad was lying in New York harbor to-day and the price of food sturs was causing suffering in New York city. There would be a perfect howl from both press and people against the farmer because the tariff on food stuffs, which has never done the farmer any good up to this time, threatened to make the cost of living higher I do not believe there is a paper in New York which would take the side of the farmer. Though natural causes alone food, as soon as that increase is felt in the countable for it. That is what I mean by the trouble impending between the people of the cities and the people of the coun-

AGRICULTURE AND WEALTH. Mr. Bookwalter believes that agriculture has no: seen the increase in wealth which should have come to it in the last thirty

Before the war," he said, "the wealth of the country was divided equitably be-

cultural classes gained \$36,000,000,000 in

Mr. Bookwalter has some ideas which would not be generally accepted concernplanted it in sod corn and this year he has ling the development of agriculture. For example, he says that agriculture has not been aided by machinery. He has traveled through all Europe and part of Asia, and clear and cultivate a thousand acres of has just returned from a study of economic conditions in Italy, where he traveled for several thousand miles on a bi-"This land the government has been giv- cycle. He says that in Italy they spade most of the land and beat us in the out-

"Machinery is a hindrance," he said. 'We used to get a higher acreage output with the old shovel plow than we do with the latest improved machinery. The Cauthe world and has no machinery. The hand plow there cuts eighteen and twenty inches deep. You cannot get anything like that with a machine plow.

"What machinery has done for us is to bring Australia and South America and the great West into communication with us. This is the great thing which has happened in the last half century. Everything else is collateral. But the productive capacity of these countries has been brought almost to its limit. I saw it stated recently that New Zealand had actually reached the limit of production and her exports were diminishing. Australia has reached the limit. There is unsettled land in the northwestern part of this continent, but the climatic conditions make it impossible for any one to settle there unless he is accustomed to the rigors of a northern latitude. In Russia and in South America are great stretches of territory to be settled, but for the most part it is now occupied by halfof chemistry will provide food from the that exception there is, to my mind, no of the banns, hurried to Gretna Green and supply and a lower scale of living. This, of course, means increased prices , and, under normal conditions, a great accession of prosperity to the farmer. Nature is bound to readjust conditions in time and I think she is going to begin doing it pretty soon.' GEORGE GRANTHAM BAIN,

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

What was the date of the prize fight between Jack Dempsey and Robert Fitzsimmons?-M. R.

How much nearer the sun are we in winter than in summer?-J. D. W. A maximum difference of about 3,200,000

How many domestic animals are in the United States?-J. H. O'H. Horses, 13,537,000; mules, 2,000,000; cattle, 2,800,000; milch cows, 16,200,000, and sheep,

How is aluminium soldered?-B. With a solder composed of from eighty to eighty-five parts of zinc to twenty to fifteen parts of aluminium.

How many soldiers, including officers, are in the United States? 2. And how many are our postoffices?-I. N. Those in the United States number 33,874, the entire army establishment taking in 84,513. 2. 76,688.

Who was captain on the Portland when it went down? 2. What was the year? 3. How many lives were lost?-Type. Hollis N. Blanchard. 2, 1898, 3, Over a hundred; the exact number was not known.

A says that a billion is correctly written thus, 1,000,000,000,000; B that it should be 1,000,000,000; which is right?—C. W. D. system of numeration. The English system authorizes A's writing.

Will you give the birthplaces of the folowing authors, and say if dead or living: . Mrs. Henry Wood. 2. Capt. Mayne Reid. George Ohnet, 4. Octave Feuillet.-W.

1. England, died Feb. 10, 1887. 2. North of Ireland, Oct. 22, 1883, 3. Paris, France, living. 4. France, died Dec. 28, 1890.

Will you print the President's oath on taking office?-E.

Yes; it is, "I do solemnly swear for af-

What kind of trees are celandines, where do they grow, and are their roots and leaves used for removing superfluous hairs?

of the poppy family, a native of Europe, coming in 1693. 3. At Boston. 4. Ecclesiastes, only partially naturalized here. Its acrid, | x, 20, perhaps: "Curse not the King * * * poisonous juice possibly might serve as a for a bird of the air shall carry the voice. depilatory. The lesser celandine is the Eu-

What is the numerical strength of the following denominations in the United States: Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran and Congregational?-J. C. D. It is impossible to give or get accurate figures, but the following were reached carefully: Methodist, including all branches, 5,846,132; Baptists, 4,575,392; Presbyterians, 1,575,608; Lutherans, 1,665,878; Congregationa slow process and expensive. A few bad | alists, 629,874. These figures take in actual church members only.

Why is bicarbonate of ammonia considered injurious to health, if, as chemistry says, it leaves no residue, when used in baking powder? 2. Will you describe the contrivance used to ascertain the number of miles traveled by a vehicle?-W. H. K. The argument advanced against it is to the effect that it is a product of the decomposition of animal matter. The reasoning is unsound. 2. An automatic registering device is fixed to the vehicle in such way that a striker attached to a wheel gives it a blow at each revolution of the wheel. The rotations are thus registered, and, with the

there and swamps to fill. In New England each was in the same ratio. According to may be counted rapidly; or, as in the cythe growth of wealth in this country agri- | clometer, this is done automatically by a graduated series of gear wheels and recorded by dials.

> Where is the Twenty-third Infantry, and where do they receive mail?—B. B. Companies A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H left Manila on the transport Buford, Sept. 29, and arrived at New York Dec. 1; address care quartermaster's department. 35 Whitehall street, New York city. Companies I and M are at Fort Logan, Colorado; K at Fort Russell, Wyoming; L at Fort

Will you give a formula for removing printer's ink from paper?—B. Often such ink cannot be removed. One ting paper beneath the solled sheet, and to apply sulphuric ether with cotton wool, rubbing gently. Apply blotting paper to absorb the color, and repeat both applicacasas has the largest per capita export in tions until the stains disappear. Don't do this near a light or fire.

Will you print a short sketch of Francis Hopkinson Smith?—H. B. He was born in Baltimore, Md., Oct. 23, 1828; early in life was clerk in an iron works and then was educated as a mechanical engineer. Becoming engineer and contractor, he did much government work, Race Rock Lighthouse and the foundation of Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty as parts of it. He has done charcoal work and illustrations and much landscape work in water

Where and under what circumstances did the expression "Gretna Green" originate?-

published writings has been steady,

colors. Since 1885, too, the output of his

Gretna Green was a Scotch village at one time famous for its numerous runaway | marriages. The English law then recognized as valid any marriage contracted in accordance with the laws of the country in which it took place, and the Scotch law required simply a mutual declaration of marriage before a witness. So young English couples who lacked the consent of parents, constituents to be found in nature, but with or who did not wish to await publication escape from the prospect of a reduced food declared their marriage before the first convenient witness.

Were 3-cent nickels or 1-cent nickels issued by the United States government? If so, at what time? 2. Were half-cents issued, and at what time?-J. H. C.

Nickel 3-cent pieces were authorized by a law passed in 1865, and were abolished, together with \$3 and \$1 gold pieces, in 1890. A nickel cent was substituted for the copper cent in 1857, and gave way to the bronze cent in 1864. 2. Yes; they were authorized in 1792, and their coinage did not cease en-

How is the depth of a deep place in the ocean ascertained?-F. A.

Steel piano wire, to which is attached a heavy weight is paid out from a reel, an attachment called the friction line being so arranged as to maintain a balance between the friction and the weight of wire run out at any one time. When the weight strikes the bottom the reel stops revolving, and the depth is ascertained by multiplying the circumference of the reel by the number of revolutions. The wire is reeled in by

Who were the original authors of the British Constitution? 2. Who are the lake poets? 3. Who was the Mahdi?—Query. Various sovereigns, members of Parliament and very many others. The word constitution has, in England, a very different meaning to that given to it here. There it signifies the whole body of public law in England, written and unwritten. This has been a matter of growth during centuries. and includes parliamentary enactments. judicial decisions, settled precedents and immemorial customs. 2. Poets of the lake region of Westmoreland and Cumberland, England. Coleridge, Wordsworth and Southey were the more important ones. B is right, because we follow the French | The name originally was given in contempt. 3. This word signifies the Moham. medan Messiah, who, the Mohammedans believe, will reign spiritually and temporally in the last days and convert the world to Islam, Many have claimed to be the Mahdi, notably Mohammed Ahmed, who, in 1883, started an insurrection in the

2. When and where was the first college in the United States founded? 3. Where was the first newspaper in the United States published? 4. What is the origin of the saying, "a little bird told me so?"-Eden. The old-time custom of bakers giving thir-

protect and defend the Constitution of the inflicted for short-weight bread and was meant to avoid infliction of the penalty. The surplusage was styled inbread, the thirteenth loaf, the vantage loaf. 2. In 1617 the first steps were taken toward establish-The greater celandine is a perennial herb | erected at Williamsburg, Va., a charter and that which hath wings shall tell the

> When I Was One-and-Twenty. When I was one-and-twenty

I heard a wise man say, 'Give pounds, and crowns and guineas, But not your heart away.

Give pearls away, and rubies But keep your fancy free." But I was one-and-twenty-No use to talk to me.

When I was one-and-twenty

"The heart out of the bosom Was never given in vain;

'Tis paid with sighs a-plenty, And I am two-and-twenty. And oh, 'tis true, 'tis true!

-A. E. Housman. She Thinks He Was Ambiguous.

Chicago Record-Herald. "You wouldn't think that I could have a daughter who is old enough to be married. would you?" she asked, simpering girlishly. "Well," he said, "that would depend on whether I heard you talk without seeing

you or saw you without hearing you She is still wondering whether he meant



Waulken-Sleep-I am one uv Nature's own gardeners. Farmer Hoen-Well, you look seedy.



"IT'S UP TO YOU."

you've a lot to do. And some things won't wait-especially these splendidly comprehensive assortments of holiday novelties. The unalterable law of trade is, "first come first served". Since last Monday a new energy has caught the people. Half-hearted interest has

TIME for hesitation is past. With Christmas hardly more than two weeks away

The agree Bulletino

given way to earnest buying. "There's a Christmas feel in the air." This week we respond with an increased sales force at many counters. Helpful service awaits you and stocks are at their best. It's up to you.

Gift 'Kerchiefs

Handkerchiefs designed for gifts are not materially different from others. But there is a distinction. Ideals are different. Ordinarily our efforts are bent toward securing the best possible for the least possible. Economy is the motif. With gift handkerchiefs beauty is the first consideration. In this Ayres showing of holiday 'kerchiefs are many surprisingly low prices, many very serviceable qualities, but the dominant feature is beauty and novelty. We tell the prices because that is a merchant's first duty, but we insist that you should see so broad and beautiful display because it deserves the consideration of every one with a gift handkerchief to buy.

Real Duchess Handkerchiefs \$1.50 to

Duchess, with point lace, Handkerchiefs \$5.50 to \$25 each.

French hand embroidered Handkerchiefs \$1.50 to \$19.50. Kerchiefs of fine linen, hemstitched and trimmed with real Valenciennes

lace, \$1.25 to \$3.25. Hand embroidered Irish Linen Handkerchiefs 15c to \$4 each.

Children's Handkerchiefs at from 5c Men's pure Linen Handkerchiefs,

hemstitched, 10c to \$1.00 each. Embroidered Handkerchiefs for gentlemen 25c and 50c.

Waist SILKS

A lot of new wash silks and some special offerings among the popular corded taffetas and Louisines.

White corded wash Silks from Japan, a yard 490 Louisine Silks in cardinal, blue, brown, gobelin and other favorite colors, dollar kind at 850 All-black corded Taffetas, a popular dollar a yard quality, also 850 27-inch plain black Taffeta, guaranteed to wear, priced a yard...... 880 Yard-wide Taffeta, regularly \$1.00 a yard, just a few pieces, at ... 850 Extra heavy and wide corded Taffeta in black, specially designed for service, a yard...... \$1.00

Novelty LINENS

She's not to be found-the housewife with quite everything she wants in fancy table linens. Here's an assortment fascinating in its breadth and

squares at from 15c to \$12.50 each. Round and square Table Cloths, 21/2yard size, with elaborate embellishments of Cluny and Renaissance lace,

\$63, \$65 and \$69; smaller sizes, \$20 to Cluny lace dinner set, consisting of a 36-inch round centerpiece, a dozen plate doylies and a dozen tumbler

Cluny lace sideboard Scarfs, 20 inches wide and 36 to 50 inches long, \$14

to \$18.75 each. Hemstitched and bordered Table Linen Sets, from Ireland, Scotland, Germany and Belgium, a great variety, \$7.75 to \$30 a set.

Fancy Towels of every familiar kind, and not a few novelties, 29c to

Printed Wools

A Holiday Importation

An Ayres peculiarity, thisthe advance importation of spring printings for holiday buyers. Most stores wait until after New Year's before bringing them on. Last year's venture was so successful that this season we doubled our purchase. Somebody can be made happy with the wherewith for a new house gown or waist.

Satin-striped French Challies in cream, white and variously tinted grounds, at 75c a yard; some of the handsomest printings we have ever

Side-band Cashmeres and all-over Persian designs of the same, the prettiest ever, 75c and 85c a yard. Melrose Waistings, silk cords, broche stripes and other novel styles, and the new satin-striped Voiles, at 75c

Plain-color Javanaise, in all tints, with piquot edge, satin stripes, 65c a

Evening Sheer Stuffs, including French Organdies, Silk Organdies and Silk-dotted Organdies, 35e to 50e a

Fine Petticoats of Silk

Less Than Half Price for Many

All the handsomer ones, those with ornate embellishments of lace, tucks, insertion, ruffles and pleatings, are reduced in price at least half, some even more. Such skirts were recently selling at \$25, \$28, \$30 and up to \$40. Your pick now at from \$12 to \$19. Of cheaper ones note the following:

One lot of Silk Petticoats of best Arlington taffeta, trimmed with deep accordion ruffles and under dust ruffles, reduced from \$8.50 and \$10.00

A second lot includes both black and colored Silk Petticoats beautified with flare flounces, ruffles and pleatings, reduced from \$11.00 and \$12.50

A few novelty dress lengths which were

French camel hair and Etamine dress

lengths are now offered at \$15.00

FOR... French Dress Patterns

Every woman is proud to own a dress pattern novel and exclusive in weave and coloring, but not every woman feels like incurring the expense of their purchase at usual prices. It's different now. For Monday we announce the semi-annual clearing sale. Recent prices are reduced almost half.

French pattern robes, embroidered and camel hair effects, \$10.75, reduced from \$19 and upward. Nine silk and wool souffle patterns are

now 814.75 instead of \$25. Persian camel hair patterns are reduced

from \$5 to \$19.00.

At \$29.00 you have choice of bordered patterns recently \$39 each. Browns, blues, greens, red and rose shades among them; only

one dress length in each design. Something NEW in

instead of \$25.

\$20 and \$22.50 at \$12.75.

Corsetdom Slender women will please pass on to the next subject; this concerns only those of stouter build. For these latter we picture the lates t La Grecque success-a corset which insures gracefully rounded hips. You know the trouble with long-hip corsets heretofore. They were necessary to plump figures, and yet when only moderately laced gave a flat, straight hip which was far from pretty. This new corset overcomes this particular difficulty. Perhaps the illustration suggests in what manner, but the corset itself is convincing. Let us show

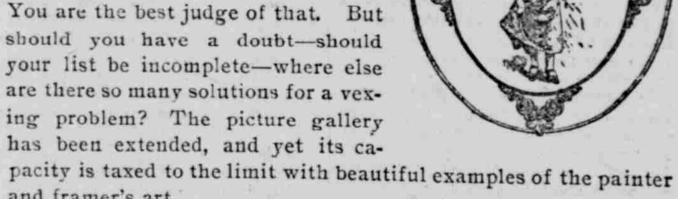
A BLUE-MARK SALE of

Novelty Carriage Wraps

You know this always fascinating array of handsome garments-confined designs from New York's best makers, most of them accurate copies of Paris and Berlin's choicest novelties. They've been here now from two to three months. Time they were yours. Of fifty probably two dozen remain. Monday the blue pencil cuts every price to cost or less; \$50 frequently does the duty of \$75. If you care for a fine wrap this is the opportunity of the year.

The Fine ARTS

Here's friendly advice for giftgivers: Visit the art store. Not Mexican work doylies, scarfs and that we think pictures and bric-abrac to be in every case the most desirable remembrance for a friend. You are the best judge of that. But should you have a doubt-should your list be incomplete-where else are there so many solutions for a vexing problem? The picture gallery has been extended, and yet its ca-



complete, \$2.75 and upward.

and framer's art. Platinum and carbon photographs of the world's masterpieces, artistically

Original paintings in oil and water color, framed and unframed. Water colors by well-known artists, \$4.50 to \$50 each. Tojetti's "Two Roses" and "Galatea" and "The Three Graces," reproduced

in hand-colored platinum, framed to your order, according to size, \$5 to \$22. Alma Tadema's "Spring" in colors, \$35, and Dendy Sadler's "The Chorus" New posters from Mucha and Golay, original prints from Europe, framed

A most attractive offering is of reproductions from the ancient and modern masters in 20 by 24-inch size, framed complete, for \$1.50. Some original photographs from Japan, colored and framed by the natives,

Original water colors from Japan also. Well worth seeing.

New Gloves for Everybody

A showing that attracts by its variety, charms with its beauty and interests everyone who knows glove goodness and glove economy. Scotch knit wool Gloves for men, 25c a pair.

Golf Gloves for children, shapely and substantially knit, in bright pleasing colors, 25c, 35c and 50c a pair. Golf Gloves for women, some in quiet grays, some in bright colors, others in gay stripings, 50c a pair. Warm-lined Leather Gloves for men, 50c and upward to \$2 a pair.

Men's Dress Gloves of select kid from the world's best makers, \$1.50 to \$2.50 a pair; a really excellent quality for \$1.00. Women's Street Gloves are shown in the best styles; one with large clasp fasteners, lap-seam, mannish style, grays, browns and white, at \$1.00 a pair. We are agents for Foster's famous Laced Gloves.

Indiana's Greatest Distributors of Dry Goods &&

Lace Curtains

Lower prices first, but what's of still greater interest to most people, the styles offered include some of the season's most popular novelties-these Point Appliques, for instance: Point Applique curtains with neat bor-

der edges, some plain in center, others

with detached figures. \$5 curtains at

82.75, \$6.75 ones at 84.15, \$

ones at \$3.75 and \$9 ones at 85.75 a pair. Then these Renaissance curtains with edge and insertion; somé 86,00 in stead of \$8.25, others 84.10 instead of \$6 and a third lot \$11.50 a pair

which have been selling at 15.75. Ruffled Muslin Curiains

More than one hundred pairs of ruffled muslin curtains have been gathered in one lot for speedy departure. Some have hem-stitched ruffles, some are striped, some figured and some have dotted centers; regular prices, \$2, \$2.50 and \$2.75 a pair. They are on sale Monday at 8150 a Pair.

SACQUES

FOR NEGLIGEE WEAR

'Tisn't likely you'll happen upon an assortment of equal merit elsewhere in Indiana. There's variety, abundance and some remarkable values. Many bath and lounging robes, too, but the story is altogether too long for one telling. Read just a few descriptions of the dressing sacques.

Sacques, of eiderdown, red, pink, blue or gray, made with large, round sailor collars, wool crocheted edges and satin frogs down the

front980 All favorite colors in another Eiderdown Sacque, of similar style, but with trimmings of black satin rib-

Dressing Sacques, of best ripple eiderdown, with large sailor collars, trimmed with three rows of satin ribbon and satin frog fasteners\$1.98

some beauties at \$2.49, \$3.25, \$3.75 and Dressing Sacques of fine French fiannel, made with large collar, full

front and loose back, heavy satin

Others more elaborately trimmed;

cord trimming......82.98 About FRAMING

Already our frame-makers are working far into the night in order to keep within bounds the fast-accumulating orders. This is always a busy section, and rightly. We frame cheaply. Every facility is here for the most economical production of the best possible frames, and the same skilled workmen who helped make the reputation of "Ward's Art Store" are still here to a man.

Hundreds of Moldings for your se-

Many others of novel finish, coloring or decoration can be made to your order on short notice.

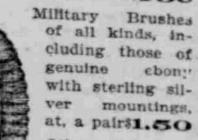
We'll gladly take your order now and deliver the picture at any future time. It isn't well to procrastinate for several obvious reasons.

Where Glass and SILVER Sparkle

Just inside the door. Happy solutions here for gift problems. Artistic novelties and useful articles in value from the limit of reasonable economy to the borders of luxurious indulgence. A few Monday specials for the thrifty.

Salt and Pepper Bottles with sterling silver tops, 25c kind......170 Sterling silver manicure articles, full range of the regular 25c sort, choice170

Cut Glass Jars for cold cream, pretty sliver tops, dollar kind 750



with sterling silmountings, at, a pairs1.50 Others of finer grade, both millcloth Brushes, at

from \$2 to \$6. Silver mounted Ebony Hair Brush-

French plate mirrors, matching in design the above styles, at \$2.50 and82.00 Set of cloth and hat Brushes of em-

bossed leather 82.00 Sterling silver chain Bracelets, \$1.25

Manicure articles of best steel, with grade890